CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023!

A Message from our Department Head, Dr. Hilda Kurtz

Congratulations to the graduate and undergraduate students who are graduating today! You have worked hard, had some fun along the way, and connected with fellow travelers in the worlds of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences. In other words, you have made a mark here.

You leave UGA equipped to ask and answer keen questions about a complex and changing world, and to embrace many different ways to make the world a better place. You will always be part of the UGA Geography community, and we look forward to hearing about your future adventures.

-Dr. Hilda Kurtz
UGA Geography Department Head

Join us in congratulating our Fall 2023 Graduates!

Undergraduate Students:

Jai Gonzales
Victoria Nabb

Graduate Students:

Coleman Allums (Ph.D)
Alana Cordak (M.S.)
Ellen Delgado Florian (M.S.)
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**December 18**  
Campus wide  
Faculty take note: Fall Semester grades are due on Monday, December 18th, 2023!

**January 8**  
Campus Wide  
The Spring 2024 semester starts on Monday, January 8th! We can’t wait to welcome our students, faculty, and staff back for another semester at UGA.

**January 15**  
Campus Wide  
This year’s Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday will take place on Monday, January 15th. The University will be closed and classes will not be held.

**January 17**  
5:00 pm  
GGY 200D  
**SPRING 2024 GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION**  
Have you become a Geography major within the past year? Join us for our departmental orientation!

Social Media  
Want to stay up to date with all things UGA Geography? Follow us on our social media accounts. If you have any events, news, awards, or other information you’d like to share on our social media, please reach out to Matt Calonius.

- [https://twitter.com/UGaGeography](https://twitter.com/UGaGeography)
- [https://www.facebook.com/GeographyDepartmentUGA/](https://www.facebook.com/GeographyDepartmentUGA/)
- [https://www.instagram.com/geographyuga/](https://www.instagram.com/geographyuga/)
- [https://twitter.com/UGaGeography](https://twitter.com/UGaGeography)
- [https://geography.uga.edu](https://geography.uga.edu)
This Week’s Featured Opportunity

- PhD student in Earth system modelling at the Department of Geography, University of Georgia

Position summary: A fully funded PhD student position is available to evaluate impacts of land-based climate mitigation strategies in Earth System Models (ESMs). The position is with the Department of Geography, University of Georgia, Athens and will begin Fall 2024. The student will gather observational constraints on changes to carbon stored on land and to biophysical properties (such as changes to albedo and evaporation) due to land cover change (for example, planting forests, allowing ecosystems to naturally regenerate, and planting crops for bioenergy). The observational constraints will then be used to evaluate similar changes in a suite of ESMs and contribute to model developments of the forest and bioenergy routines in one of the models (up to the student's discretion). The project will complement ongoing work a European Union-funded project involving four ESMs (ESM2025), presenting opportunities for the student to interact with an international research team, including developers of the NCAR model CLM-Fates. The graduate student will be expected to communicate their results in peer-reviewed publications and at scientific conferences.

Required qualifications: Candidates must have proven abilities to conduct independent research and to work as part of a scientific team. Experience in data analysis (of large model or observational data sets), strong quantitative skills, and an understanding of Earth system models are essential. Experience in or an interest in learning R or Python also are required. One or more of the following would also be helpful: experience with machine learning, experience with land surface models, or an understanding of biophysical and biogeochemical impacts of land cover change; but the drive and willingness to learn these skills is acceptable. A strong background in geography, atmospheric sciences, mathematics, statistics, or plant or landscape ecology is also suggested.

How to apply: Students will join Harper Lab in the Department of Geography at the University of Georgia. The assistantship will include a salary commensurate with education level, tuition waiver, and health benefits. Interested candidates should send an email describing their past experience and their motivation for pursuing a graduate degree in the above research topic, along with a CV and the names and contact information for 3 references, to Dr. Anna Harper (a.harper@uga.edu), Department of Geography, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30606. Review of applications will begin after December 1, and will continue until the position is filled. The anticipated start date is August 01, 2024.

The University of Georgia values diversity and all qualified applicants are encouraged to apply. UGA is in Athens, GA, a vibrant mid-sized city with abundant shopping, restaurants and cultural experiences. In case of any questions, potential applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Anna Harper (a.harper@uga.edu), Department of Geography, UGA.
STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **University of South Carolina Health Faculty Cluster Hire**
  
  The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Carolina announces a faculty cluster hire in the multidisciplinary area of Social Determinants of Health. We invite applications from scholars with expertise at the intersections of health and social positionalities such as race and ethnicity, gender, class, and/or sexualities. Learn more here!

- **Employment Opportunities with FEMA**
  
  FEMA is hiring a GIS Manager and GIS Specialist. Learn more here!

- **Tutor with UGA Athletic Association Academic Support Services**
  
  Provide individual and small group tutoring to student-athletes in the Rankin Smith Student-Athlete Academic Center. Assist students in improving academic achievement by meeting with them weekly to clarify concepts, enhance study skills, and review class materials.

  *If you are interested, please reach out directly to Whitney Burton at wburton@sports.uga.edu

- **Montgomery College- Full Time Geography Faculty Member**
  
  Montgomery College, Rockville Campus, is seeking an Applied Geography faculty member to fill a position starting January 2024. We are seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated teacher who exhibits a high degree of professionalism, a strong commitment to our students, and the ability to motivate and educate in an engaging manner. This position is part of a collective bargaining unit. See more details and application instructions here!

- **GIS Position at Gwinnett County Public Schools**
  
  Gwinnett County Public Schools Planning Department is hiring a GIS Analyst. The primary responsibilities of this position are to coordinate the processes associated with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) map development and maintenance, student information, and map synchronization for the Planning Department. See more details and application instructions here!

- **NC State University Fall 2023 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program**
  
  The Center for Geospatial Analytics at North Carolina State University is now accepting applications for Fall 2024 enrollment in our interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Geospatial Analytics. We expect to admit a cohort of ten students. Applications are due Feb. 1, 2024. Learn more here!

- **University of Arizona GIST Program Hiring Instructional Designer**
  
  The University of Arizona’s Geographic Information Systems Technology (GIST) program ([https://gis.arizona.edu/](https://gis.arizona.edu/)) is hiring an Instructional Designer II with geospatial skills. This position is housed in the School of Geography, Development and Environment in Tucson, Arizona. We are looking for a candidate with a background in GIS and the use of ESRI ArcGIS products in addition to instructional design experience. Click here for more info!

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Campus-wide events:

**U Matter: An Upstander Intervention Program**

U Matter will resume after the December Holidays.

U Matter is an upstander intervention program to support a culture that cares about and helps each other in this community. Learn more here!

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**Healthy Relationship Workshop**

This presentation seeks to help clarify values, explore relationship dynamics, and develop communication skills.
• Student Research Award

The Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition invites applications for our $800 annual research award for Masters or PhD level students at an accredited college or university with a concentration in food and nutritional anthropology. The funding is intended to support the research phase of the project. This year we are particularly interested in decolonized, ethical research focused on food justice and food sovereignty.

Winners will be recognized at SAFN’s Reception at the annual American Anthropological Association meeting. Learn more here!

• AAG Student Honors Paper Competition

The Geographic Information Science and Systems Specialty Group (GISS-SG) of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) is pleased to announce the 2024 Honors Competition for Student Papers on Geographic Information Science and Systems topics to be presented at the annual meeting. The purpose of this competition is to promote scholarship and written and oral presentation by students in the field of GIS. Papers are invited from current graduate and undergraduate students on any topic in geographical information systems and geographic information science.

Any paper that advances any aspect of GIS is welcome.

Important Dates:
November 10, 2023 – extended abstract (~1000 words) and AAG conference registration PIN due to Dr. Gengchen Mai at gengchen.mai25@uga.edu
November 28, 2023 - finalists notification
February 15, 2024 – for graduate student finalists, full paper due to Dr. Gengchen Mai at gengchen.mai25@uga.edu
See here for more info, or contact Dr. Gengchen Mai at gengchen.mai25@uga.edu

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GET HELP
Whether it’s a life-threatening emergency, a non-emergency concern, or a crime tip; there are several options to relay those concerns.

MOBILE BLUELIGHT
Immediately call the UGA Police and share your location in real-time with them.

FRIEND WALK
Send your location in real-time to a friend so they can watch you as you walk to your destination.

CHAT WITH UGA POLICE
Report a concern by texting with UGA Police.

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN EMERGENCY
Conveniently located in one place to help you take immediate action.

DOWNLOAD THE APP!
[Link: t.uga.edu/7Xf]